



The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | JANUARY 2019

Pastor's Reflections

Last summer Megan & I have served as chaplains for AIR Camp at Little Grassy UMC Campground, as we had for several prior summers. Near the end of the week, our nightly worship at the “tabernacle” (aka the shelter) ended and people were leaving. Staying last to turn out the lights, I began to follow after Megan & a friend who'd gone ahead. I hadn't given my eyes enough time to adjust from the light to the dark, so for a few moments my vision failed me. That failure resulted in me tripping over and falling onto a heavy wood bench, which led to several scrapes, bruises and feeling pretty darn miserable! When we don't have our vision (literally or figuratively) things can go very wrong in a hurry!

I share this story of my clumsiness as an illustration. Just as a person needs their vision and or other senses to safely navigate in the dark, so a church, a congregation of people following Jesus Christ needs vision from God's Holy Spirit to move forward into the ministries God calls them too. If we don't have a vision from God, we'll most likely trip and fall. It is a vital and a very good thing for a church to prayerfully seek God's vision for our growth as followers of Jesus Christ and how share love in Christ's Name in our community and the wider world.

We had a visioning day last January as a congregation, two of our goals for 2018 were aimed at serving & growing our youth and families, and to form more small study groups. Both goals have happened in 2018! WYG (Wesley Youth Group) formed along with the continuation and expansion of our small group ministry. The questions for us now being "Where is Christ calling on us to go in 2019?" "How might we move from strength to strength, and what new ministries at Sterling Wesley UMC might bear fruit for the “Kingdom of God?”

Continued on page 2...

Recurring Events

Sundays: WYG, 6:00-8:00PM - every 1st and 3rd Sunday

Tuesdays: Exercise class, activity room, 5PM

Wednesdays: Disciples Bible study, 9-11:30AM

Buddy Bags packing, 11:30AM

Bells practice, 5PM

Choir, 6PM in the sanctuary

Thursdays:

Exercise class, activity room, 5PM

Saturdays: Men's Bible study, 8AM

Our visioning day for 2019 will be Saturday, January 26, from 9 AM to Noon in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome and invited regardless of age, or if you are a member of the church or not! We will gather for prayer and conversation seeking the Holy Spirit to guide us. In particular, we'll talk about how we as a church are made up of people from 6 different generations! How we might uniquely live into the great blessing and find strength from that dynamic! Please mark your calendars for this important and fun day; I believe it will help us all grow in faith! If you cannot attend please respond via email prior to January 26th, castiger1@gmail.com, where you prayerfully believe God is calling Wesley to go in 2019.

Either way, please be in prayer for this day, January 26th, 2019, that the Spirit may guide us into God's future for Sterling Wesley UMC in 2019, Amen!

*In Christ,
Pastor Jeremiah*

January Events

- January 1-6:** Pastor will be on vacation
- January 3:** Greeting card ministry, 9:30am
- January 6:** Sunday school resumes
- January 9:** Women's breakfast, Benny's, 8:30am
- January 10:** Trustee meeting, 7pm, library
- January 12:** Quilters group, 9am - 2pm
ALL coffee host's meeting, 9-10am
- January 13:** WYG hiking trip
- January 16:** Mission meeting, 7pm, library
- January 18:** Ladies luncheon, 11:30am, Angelo's
- January 20:** Men's club breakfast, 9am
- January 26:** Church visioning day, 9am - noon
Fellowship hall reserved 1-6pm

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Remembrances

As we enter the month of January we will soon be remembering MLK Day. A group of Christians from various churches in Sterling and Rock Falls have formed the Diversity Committee of the Sauk Valley, to work towards deeper relationships and understanding amongst all the many ethnicities that make up our communities. As part of this effort they are sponsoring two events that I wanted to share with the congregation.

To all our artists. The diversity committee is sponsoring a traveling art exhibit that will celebrate Black History Month (February of each year). If there is an aspect of African American history, culture, art, music, etc. that inspires you and gets your artistic juices following you are invited to submit an original piece for the exhibition. If you are interested in further details please contact Tina Wren at 815-590-9350.

There will be a community worship service to celebrate MLK Day at 3:30 on Sunday January 20 at 1st Presbyterian Church, Sterling. This will be a time of music and community with a free meal to follow. All are invited!

Blessings everyone,
Pastor Jeremiah

WYG (Wesley Youth Group) Calendar for January

- Sunday January 6, 6:00 PM:** WYG, join us for food, games, conversation and prayer, everyone welcome!
- Sunday January 13, after 2nd Service:** Frozen Hike: Join us as we go to Starved Rock State Park to see the frozen waterfalls! Bring your friends, its so beautiful you don't want to miss it (weather permitting if we can't we will try to reschedule)
- Sunday January 20, 6:00 PM:** WYG, join us for food, games, conversation and prayer, everyone welcome!

Special Thanks to all the people who came to our potluck last month, we raised over 1000 dollars for our retreat in March, thanks so, so, so much!

Wesley morning walkers out with the Grinch! We always say "EVERYONE" is invited to join in!



Volunteers Needed!

We are in dire need of volunteers for PADS for next year. Sign up sheets are on "the board" in the fellowship hall by the kitchen.

The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone who cooked chili or made desserts for the auction, everything was delicious! Thank you to everyone who showed up and donated to our cause, The Sauk Valley Food Bank. Because of all of you we were able to raise \$1195 and have a great time of fellowship. We would especially like to thank all of you who were not on the missions committee but pitched in helping in the kitchen and the clean up, Wesley parishioners are the best!



1st place in the Chili Cook Off, Roberta Fredericks and in 2nd, Jean and Joan Partridge.



1st place desserts auction, Marianne Rosser and 2nd, Rita Smith.

The Missions committee would also like to thank the approximately 30 people who rang the bell for the Salvation Army and to the Gatz's for the mat on Saturday. Our total for December 7 was \$454.11 and on December 8 was 403.75 .

Worship Services for January

I pray this New Year brings joy and blessing to us all! As we enter 2019, we will be starting a new sermon series called "Our Methodist DNA" as we talk about what in our tradition can help us feel Gods' love, Grow as faithful followers of Christ, and help in the "transformation of our world" in Christ. Here are our worship plans for the next several weeks.

January 6, 2019: Epiphany: Join us for worship as we celebrate the end of the 12 Days of Christmas. Bruce Kramer will be sharing the message as Pastor Jeremiah is away with Megan celebrating their Anniversary

January 13, 2019: Our Methodist DNA: Worship: Join us for worship and as we reflect on why we gather for worship each week and how worship can help us grow in faith and build us up for going out and loving the world in Jesus' Name!

January 20, 2019: Our Methodist DNA: The Family of God: all people are our fellow Children of God. From the very beginning of Methodism we have taught that no one is excluded from God's love for any reason, particularly not their background or language. Join us as we ponder what it means to view all people as part of our family in Christ!

January 27, 2019: Our Methodist DNA: A Method for Devotion: through our spiritual practices and devotion day by day we grow in faith, in ways that we can't any other way. Let's examine what this might mean for our lives this year!

February 3, 2019: Our Methodist DNA: Service and Generosity: the mission statement of the United Methodist Church is: "Making disciples of Jesus Christ, for the transformation of the world." This week we will prayerfully meditate on what it means to help transform the world in Jesus' Name.

February 10, 2019: Our Methodist DNA: Christ: in following Christ all we do is grounded, so as both the beginning and ending of our faith we consider how Christ unites us!

February 17, 2019: Sending Our Love to Each Other's Churches: Join us for worship as Rev. Megan Thompson, Pastor Jeremiah's Spouse, shares the message with us, as she and Jeremiah do a pulpit exchange to send their "Love" to each other's congregations!

Thank You Notes

Just a note to say thank you for all the Christmas, Anniversary Cards and notes from all of you. They made us so happy to be remembered by so many from our church family and warmed our hearts with joy.

We attended Christmas Eve services at a Christian Mega Church here which was a new experience with our children and grandchildren. The music was quite loud and message from the minister on screen as they have seven campuses.

At the end with the lights turned low and probably 1,000 candles burning and singing Silent Night it was so beautiful it brought tears to my eyes.

So once again thank you for thanking of us and we wish each of you A Happy New Year with good health and happiness.

Lowell & Coralee Jacobs

Thank you to all who were keeping my brother and his wife in prayer (Karen & Jerry Roth) and for the prayers as my family traveled to his funeral in Ohio. The beautiful sympathy cards we received brought us comfort. A big "shout out" to the Wesley Card ministry who so faithfully sent my brother a beautiful card every month.

Sharon & David Siex

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for all of the prayers, words of encouragement, cards, gifts, and help with travel to and from Madison, WI during Matt's cancer journey. We are truly blessed to have such an amazing church family by our sides.

Matt and Stacey Wendelken

"Come, see the glorious things God has done. What marvelous miracles happen to his people! (Psalm 66:5)

ALL WESLEY COFFEE HOSTS *past, present and future*, "COME, SEE..." how **YOU** are such a valuable piece of God's love upon Sterling Wesley!

Saturday, January 12th at 9am - Renee Duncan, Lynn Majewski, & I will host this casual gathering to REJOICE, REFRESH, and REVIVE our minds & hearts for 2019 with ALL who graciously serve for this fellowship hour.

REJOICE - we'll celebrate how God uses EACH OF YOU as his love & compassion through serving as hosts. We'll pray together for the New Year ahead and for all who may come through our doors to encounter Christ - through coffee and doughnuts - and YOU!

REFRESH - we'll "tour the kitchen" to make sure all are comfortably familiar to navigate & find things needed. Learn/review how to make coffee, clean up, & point out changes this past year, (doughnuts now delivered from County Market, no longer picked up at Kroger for one!)

REVIVE - we'll inspire your hearts with the importance of this hospitality & how very VALUABLE your role truly IS!

We're so very grateful for each of you - and looking forward to **JANUARY 12th at 9AM** to tell you that, face to face!

Bring questions, comments, and suggestions!

Please RSVP (text is fine) to me by January 10th so I'll know how many to expect!

Be Blessed,

Nancy Pitsch 815-499-3802, nancy@pitschfamily.com

Thank you to all who went Christmas Caroling! It was a **JOYOUS** afternoon!



Do you have an hour or two to spare and you would like to help keep a good program functioning?

Loaves and Fishes, a free breakfast mission at First United Methodist Church in Sterling could use you.

This program is almost eight years old, and some of the volunteers are retiring. However, the need is still there, so if you can spare even one hour a week, your help would be greatly appreciated. Cooking, serving food, cleaning up, picking up food at the food bank are some of the jobs. The breakfast is served five days a week from 9:00 to 11:00AM. Call Lois Heerdts who is the coordinator (815)499-1706. Contact Bill or Sue Abate if you have any questions (815)625-0539.

Thank you!

Wesley is a major contributor to the Fish Food Pantry, and for this we are very grateful. Loose coins, the Thanksgiving Offering, and some direct contributions totaled over \$1,800.! We will use some of this money at the Sauk Valley Food Bank to buy items for 18 cents a pound or to purchases groceries at a reduced price. All this makes your dollars go much further than they could at the grocery store. Hopefully, a gift like this will help us throughout the year. We are blessed to be able and serve more than 6,000 people a year!

Some Wesley members help directly at the food pantry by packing boxes of food 1 or more times a month. If you are interested in doing this please contact Beth Mathew.

Thank you again! Your gift is appreciated by the Fish Board, the volunteers at Fish and most of all by the many people that are served by the Fish Food Pantry.

Beth Mathew

Some Sunday Worship Blessings!



GREAT job WYG on your potluck fundraiser, and THANK YOU Wesley UMC for your support!



Birthdays

January 1	Joan Partridge	January 18	Reid Blackburn, Ryan Blackburn, Bowen Malhi, Lucy White
January 3	Norma Church, Steve Michel	January 20	Randy Clodfelter, Janne Rausa
January 5	Joshua Greenfield	January 22	Mitchell Clodfelter, Cathy Williams
January 8	Joe Gatz, Carol Shaw	January 23	Katie Spangler
January 11	Susie Cedro, Melissa Freas	January 24	Antonio Castaneda
January 12	Matthew Taylor	January 26	Darrin Driscoll, Cal Jacobs, Kaitlyn Williams
January 13	Molly Papoccia	January 29	James Melton
January 14	Michael Quick, Christie Freas	January 30	Lexi Hinrichs
January 15	Max White	January 31	Wendy Fitzanko
January 16	Toby Hodges		

Anniversaries

January 1	Jeremiah & Megan Thompson
January 5	Jon & Christie Freas
January 23	Rock & Sharon Gentry
January 26	Edd & Marianne Rosser

Bread Hosts

January's Bread Hosts are Bill Parker and his grandson, Max. Thank you Dave Fredericks for hosting December.



Servers for January- 8 a.m.

	Greeters/Ushers/Acolytes	Liturgist
January 6	Steve & Mary Downes	Randy Clodfelter
January 13	↓	Randy Smith
January 20		Bruce Kramer
January 27		Renee Duncan

Coffee Hosts

January 6	Steve & Amy Lopez
January 13	Toby & Debbie Hodges
January 20	Bruce & Debbie Kramer
January 27	Tim Schwingle

Servers for January- 10 a.m.

	Greeters	Ushers/Acolytes	Liturgist
January 6	Diantha Wentling & Norma Church	Bill, Max Parker Beth Jacobs, Ronyn, Kyllian	Aaron Marken
January 13	↓	Truedson Family, Bill, Max Parker	
January 20		Bill, Max Parker Isaac, Noah, Eli, Rich Halverson	Elisa Gatz
January 27	↓	↓	Mary Spitzer

Wesley United Methodist Church

2200 16th Ave.

Sterling, IL 61081

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Wesley United Methodist Church

Phone: (815) 625-1968 Pastor: 815-592-3764

Website: www.sterlingwesley.org

Email: office@sterlingwesley.org

castiger1@gmail.com

Open Heart, Open Minds, Open Doors

You are invited to join us for worship Sundays at 8 and 10 a.m. with Sunday School and fellowship at 9 a.m.

Mission Corner

Wesley has always been a mission-minded church. The purpose of this space is to keep the congregation informed of our various mission efforts.

We currently are receiving:

- Donations of bedding, small appliances, and other **household items** to support Trinity UMC and the VA Clinic/Valor Program, as they work to find homes for local veterans. A list of needed items is on the table in the fellowship hall.
- **Laundry Detergent** for Bear Necessities, Everyday Essentials and the FISH Food Pantry.
- **Travel-sized toiletries** for the Trinity and FISH pantries.
- **Loose coins** to benefit Betty Tshala - Zambia in January.